

TOURISM

Throughout my career I have been closely involved in our Island's tourism scene and how sad I am at its sorry state today. I believe fervently that tourism has a future and a significant economic importance to the nation. Yes, we have scenic beauty, coastline, mountains and glens, but so too do other destinations within the adjacent Island, with which we are in destination "competition". It is about time we stopped talking about the state of tourism and did something about it. Our Island is no longer just a summer resort - it is open all year round. Investment in the provision of quality recreational facilities will not only help in attracting visitors here but also benefit our local residents all the year round. Such investment - perhaps in a dry ski slope, or an all weather indoor solarium and pleasure park - would also cater handsomely for our young people. Our visitor numbers arriving by coach are growing and would be assisted by the provision of at least one purpose built coaching hotel. Tourism is an area where our money must be wisely and well spent. Let us stop talking about tourism and do something about tourism.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

I fully support the continuance of the Island's local authorities. They are an essential part of Island life and local government members make a significant and valuable contribution to our community. The more people we have working for the good of our Island the better. However, I can see the benefit to some amalgamation of the authorities but they must continue to be efficient, regulated and well managed.

THANK YOU

for reading this summary of my views and thoughts I have for our Island and its people. We will see 24 members being elected to the new house on the 23rd November, with a variety of individual skills but united in their enthusiasm to work for the long term benefit of our Island. There are rules to be observed in governance and personal principles to be maintained and exercised with little room for personal point scoring. We need a sensible, responsible and balanced membership of the Keys, composed of people who understand the Island, its needs and the community as a whole.

There have been some local issues brought to my attention as I have moved around the constituency, and not all of them can be easily solved. However I believe in talking through problems and reaching middle ground where possible. I also believe that a personal strength I can bring to you is being able to communicate and a willingness to help and assist where problems arise - and I am accessible and approachable. I am a 'people person' who has tangibly illustrated an indissoluble attachment to this Island and its people in many ways for most of my life. I have proved myself both as a leader and a team member, professionally and socially.

I have waited a long time to respond to the many invitations to stand for election but had to feel ready in myself to take on what is a most important and responsible role - that if I am elected will affect you, your family and this wonderful nation's future. I am ready to meet that challenge, but need your support to help me work within government without fear or favour.

If you require transport to the Polling Station or need a proxy or absent vote perhaps a poster to show your support, please ring me on 620548 or 493016 or by e-mail - geoffcorkish@manx.net

Please use your vote and make it work, Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

(Signature)

Geoff Corkish

Vote Corkish



GEOFF CORKISH

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR THE CONSTITUENCY OF DOUGLAS WEST



House of Keys General Election Thursday 23rd November 2006

Election colours: Red, White and Gold

- Age 53 born in Douglas, married for 31 years with two children
- Employed with the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company for 37 years and currently Communications Manager and Company spokesman with direct contact with the public, business community, government and the media both locally and nationally
- A life long involvement in the community, including:
 - Treasurer of the Isle of Man Church Music Association
 - Twice past President Skal Association (World Wide Travel Association)
 - Member of the Isle of Man Arts Council
 - Trustee of the Douglas Buxton Music Trust
 - Chairman of the Isle of Man Cancer Association
 - Board Trustee of The Mersey Mission to Seafarers

Responding to suggestions of making an effort to be environmentally friendly, I have issued just one copy of this manifesto to each household. I hope that this action is acceptable to you.

Printed by The Copy Shop, Bucks Road, Douglas, Isle of Man.

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Dear Constituent,

I really enjoyed meeting so many of you since I announced my intention in June to stand in this years general election. I am also most grateful for the hospitality and friendliness shown to me. My conversations thus far have given me the opportunity to discuss the various issues, concerns and hopes that are most important to you. The constituency of Douglas West is a large one and whilst I have visited a great many homes I am will endeavour to call on every household before polling day on November 23rd.

If I am successful in my bid to become elected, I would continue to call on every home that I may have missed in the constituency during the run up to the election and intend to keep in contact with you in the future. I have to admit that I have found it a little difficult to get round on all of you while still working full time at The Steam Packet Company. However, I am prepared to resign from my role of Communications Manager if I am successfully elected to serve you.

No-one can accurately predict what problems and opportunities our Island will face during the next 5 years, but I would like to outline the following areas of particular interest to me on which I would hope to be of influence and input.

THE ECONOMY

Our future, our well being and our community is dependent upon our Island's economical success and those who contribute to it. We have to continually strive to support the growth of a robust and diverse economy and in so doing, sustain and improve our standard of living and quality of life. Whilst supporting our existing successful business community here, I believe that we can attract additional business, particularly from the light industry sector to provide ongoing employment for our technologically adept young people.

IMMIGRATION

I have canvassed widely in the constituency and many topics have been covered however the subject of immigration has emerged as a key issue for every candidate in this election to consider. There can be no doubt that many of you have some serious concerns regarding immigration. We are all proud of our small, successful and robust nation and as such are fiercely protective of all that it means and stands for. Yet we must also be aware and acknowledge its fragility, which might compromise our economy and community if the entry of unknown numbers of immigrants remains unchecked. Whilst trying not to appear uncharitable and selfish - which we certainly are not - sheer common sense would suggest that we deal with this issue responsibly to protect and preserve our community and economy from an 'open house' approach. The Isle of Man has always extended a warm welcome to newcomers who have happily integrated into our community, but I believe that if this trend remains unchecked, it could well present a serious problem in the future.

We must be strong in our resolve on this issue which can be addressed by our existing work permit system. It does however need to be more rigorous, which can be achieved by bringing on board direct government involvement. It needs political control and the political will.

HOUSING

Our young people continue to have problems in getting on the property ladder and this in my opinion is inexcusable when the Island is enjoying a period of economic strength. I would like to see a shared ownership/equity scheme providing affordable housing and a chance for our young people to buy into their Island.

I would welcome the building of more sheltered housing for the older members of our society providing them with warmth, comfort and company. Such moves would illustrate our concern for them but would also provide 'new' homes for our young people to buy, renovate and modernise.

There are many older properties in Douglas which if funding could be made available would convert into superior and spacious apartments for young, single professional people who do not necessarily want or need gardens to tend. In this way I would envisage life and vibrancy being brought into Douglas the capital of our Island.

I congratulate Douglas Corporation who have embarked upon a superb rebuilding/renovation scheme for the Pulrose estate. I would welcome the provision of more Local Authority Housing which is in short supply for those many people who cannot afford to purchase.

LAW AND ORDER

The subject of law and order has been a consistent feature in every candidates electoral manifesto for as long as I can remember. Unfortunately it is the minority who can make life a problem for the vast majority. What can we expect when we have allowed our standards to drop and our codes of conduct and discipline to be watered down in a so called age of freedom of expression and political correctness.

We owe it to our children to set standards and adhere to them, to embrace disciplines so to encourage accepted standards of living together in our community. Other nations and countries may be apathetic to the creeping problems of such modern attitudes but there is no reason why we should follow suit. Let us strike a blow for all that is decent and once accepted as the face of humanity and risk the approbation of the world.

I am infuriated with the amount of speeding cars around the streets of Douglas. Such reckless and dangerous actions is not acceptable and should be dealt with efficiently and cost effectively. Confiscation of the vehicle for a period of time and reclamation at a financial cost to the driver may be a simple deterrent. It is an area that needs positive thought, application and effective results at little cost to the public purse.

The drug culture is as strong here on our Island as it is in many other places. I remember from my days working on the piers, passengers being scrutinised and searched for drugs and illicit goods both in and out of the Island. I believe that we should return to a highly visible and robust manning of our air and sea ports to both detect and deter the carriers of drugs, surely the worst aspect of modern day practices.

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

I am concerned for the present and future of our young people. I hear constant complaints from them regarding a lack of facilities to fully meet their needs. We are blessed with superb sporting venues, entertainment venues and our education system presents so much more variety of study opportunities than ever before. I have spoken to our leaders in education and have been made aware of the many initiatives they have been congratulated for and need to be built upon with as much government support as possible.

I have spoken to the students who are young adults and able this year to undertake a responsible role in our society by voting for the first time. The vote is theirs as is the future. I believe we need to liaise more closely with our young people, invest in their future and provide for their needs to the best of our ability. If not, we will see more of our young people wasting their time around our streets and not integrating fully into the community.

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE

It is apparent to us all that more control and responsibility is required for the day to day management of our nation's income and departmental budgeting. Coming from the business community I have some knowledge of how a company should be run and managed. Indeed, if private enterprise embarked upon the buying and operation of acquisitions as has been evidenced in the recent past by government, the shareholders would demand to see the accounts and call the directors to book and look for heads to roll.

We enjoy a buoyant economy but we must not act irresponsibly with our money. We need more careful, scrutiny of government expenditure is essential, as is ownership of responsibility.

FARMING

I was pleased to accept an invitation recently from the National Farmers Union here on the Island to hear at first hand the present problems being experienced and the likelihood of future concerns which may be presented when the meat derogation ends in 2011 and meat from outside our Island can be freely imported. The farmers are concerned yet upbeat having been aware of this scenario for some time and have been preparing to meet head on the added pressures which will be brought to their business. We must be aware that our farmers make a significant contribution to our economy and to our Island's scenic beauty through their care of our countryside. Around 80% of our Island is farmland. The farmers need to create their own market, to grow more vegetables in addition to the world class meat they provide and we should be prepared to support them by buying their produce that surely must be at least as good, fresher and undoubtedly better than imported goods.